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RL:0355

HB 417, HD 1 RELATING TO BEVERAGE CONTAINERS

Statement for
House Committee on
Consumer Protection and Commerce
Public Hearing, 8 March 1979

By
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Environmental Center

HB 417, HD 1 would amend HRS subsection 339-7 (b) so as to limit the present ban on plastic beverage containers. This statement on the bill does not reflect an institutional position of the University.

The original version of HB 417 would have exempted plastic beverage containers of 32 oz. or larger size from the present ban. In an Environmental Center statement (RL:0330) on that version, we indicated that the rationale for the exemption was valid.

HD 1 would, in addition, exempt containers of fruit juice from the ban, regardless of size. In the hearing on the original version of the bill it was brought out that the small containers of fruit juice were used primarily in restaurants and at luaus, and with such uses there is little likelihood that the containers would be discarded promiscuously so as to contribute to the litter problem. To the extent this is true, the additional exemption is warranted. I suggest, however, that the ban might appropriately be continued with respect to the sale of fruit juices in grocery stores and "fast-food" establishments on the grounds that the containers of beverages sold in these institutions may contribute to the litter problem.